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allegations

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Telephone: [   ]

TO: Mr. William G. Miller, Staff Director
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Bill:

    Here is a paper containing Agency
comments on allegations made at the
World Youth Festival in Havana.

              Assistant Legislative Counsel

Enclosure

OLC #78-3019/8

FORM 1533 OBSOLETE
6-68   PREVIOUS
          EDITIONS

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Cy sent To PCS/LOC 26 Dec 78

Allegations Regarding CIA at the World Youth Festival in Havana

1.   CIA agents sought to assassinate Raul Castro and Carlos Rafael Rodriguez.

Allegation totally false. In a speech at the Havana World Youth Festival, Dr. Enrique Marion Roca made reference to a CIA cable to Havana of 21 July 1960 which discussed "the possible elimination of the top three Cuban leaders by the CIA." This reference by Roca apparently is based on pages 72 and 73 of the Church Committee Report of 20 November 1975, subject: "Alleged Assassination Plots Involving Foreign Leaders," The Agency finds it ironic indeed that it is in the position of replying to charges which themselves flow from a Senate report on a subject which has already been thoroughly examined.

2.   CIA is responsible for the assassination of Ben Barka.

Allegation totally false.

3.   CIA attempted to kill Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam.

Allegation totally false.

4.   CIA employed Michael Townley.

Townley, of his own volition, initiated contact with the Agency in 1971 and expressed interest in an association with us. We did not reach an agreement and he has never been affiliated with the Agency in any manner.

5.   President Kennedy was assassinated with "the knowledge and participation" of CIA.

Allegation totally false.

6.   Lee Harvey Oswald was recruited by the CIA between 1957 and 1958.

Allegation totally false.

7.   CIA was indirectly responsible for the 1976 destruction of a Cubana Airlines aircraft.

Allegation totally false.